

Milton Town Council Budget Meeting
Milton Theatre, 110 Union Street
Thursday, August 13, 2009
6:32 PM

1. **PUBLIC HEARING** portion was called to order by Mayor Post at 6:32 pm. The Hearing is the public comment regarding the Proposed Draft of the 2009-2010 Budget. As people come up if they will give their name, we would greatly appreciate it. For the record, let it show that the following people were in attendance at this meeting:

C Martin-Brown	Present
C Duby	Present
C Hudson	Present
Mayor Post	Present
C Betts	Present
C Abraham	Present
C Prettyman	Absent

- a. Norman Lester, 111 Morgan Way: I want to touch on the compensation portion of this upcoming budget. I would suggest to the Council when they are reviewing this year's budget, that as I watched in the past, that they pass on budget items by line items; so they take one line item for salaries and they look at it; and they don't look beyond that; I would suggest that they get a complete salary breakdown. My area of concern is the Administrative Salaries. I think you would need to look at everybody's potential salary for the coming year and then to go even further would be to obtain a written description by each employee of what they actually do; how they perform their jobs; and how they contribute to the value of the Town of Milton. Supposedly there are no increases this year; but if you look at the Administrative line, this year's budget over last year's is an increase of \$6,064; Streets also increases by almost \$6,000; but then water salaries drop by over \$19,000; that's the anomaly that just doesn't make a lot of sense. I'm assuming thought that the Administrative increase is an increase for the Town Manager. His comments were that he's covered by a contract and not by the normal process, however, as I read his contract, it says that he can get raises from time to time; but it doesn't say how this system works; and nobody seems to know how this system works in giving the Town Manager his increases. He started out with the contract at \$60,000; he's now up to about \$85,000; plus \$6,000 cash.

Mayor Post: That's not true.

Norman Lester: Yes, if you look at the salaries...

Mayor Post: I'm not going to argue with you here. That's absolutely not true.

Norman Lester: I have the payroll information if you want to see it.

Mayor Post: It's incorrect.

Norman Lester: Well, how much is his salary?

Mayor Post: Upper \$60's, I believe.

Norman Lester: That's wrong, because I can show you the payroll reports for this year; so you're not correct. What is the process?

Mayor Post: We're not going to get into much discussion here tonight, but the two under contract, goes to the Personnel Committee, which is the Chief and the Town Manager; and the Town Manager and the Chief have both received the same percentage of raise increase every year. The Town Manager has never received more than the Chief. What's that? The Chief and the Town Manager have never received a greater percentage and this year he does not have an increase, as a matter of fact, he proposed an increase for all of the other, as a proposal, of a 1.5 or a 2.5%, but no increase for him or the Chief, who are the lead administrators for the two departments...

Norman Lester: Then how do you account for the increase in line items then?

Mayor Post: Jenn, I guess we can discuss that if you come to the workshop, we'll take notes and we'll certainly address that, because that could be how they proportionately distributed those line items, but there is no increases in personnel this year.

Norman Lester: But that's not what the proposed budget says.

Mayor Post: And they will be taking notes over there and we will be addressing those.

Norman Lester: I hope so.

C Hudson: Norman would those figures you have, would they include overtime; is it broken down into straight salary and overtime?

Norman Lester: Well, that's my next question. Because overtime is separate. It is a separate line item.

C Hudson: I mean in the figures you have for George Dickerson, the amount of money he's getting, is it lumped together as salary and overtime to get the one figure per quarter?

Norman Lester: The information that I get is for the payroll reports each quarter, so based on those payroll reports, his total compensation for last fiscal year ending October 2008 was \$78,000, so that's way up from \$60,000.

C Duby: Does that include benefits?

Norman Lester: No that's wages. Benefits are not reported as wages.

Mayor Post: But that possibly includes overtime. That's not base salary.

C Hudson: That would be his salary, plus overtime. We have to take a really take a good long look at overtime.

Norman Lester: At overtime, yeah. That's my next question, because there's about \$12,000 Administrative overtime and as I read it, almost everybody in the Administrative side has a title, as some sort of manager; and, as far as I know in my experience with the government, is that certain jobs, where you are a manager, you are exempt from overtime; so I know the Town Manager's contract calls for overtime; but that's what you guys did, regardless of what's in the best interest of the Town; but the other overtime I'm not sure how that goes; that's a lot of overtime.

Mayor Post: I think last year there was one officer that received \$18,000 in overtime.

Norman Lester: No, I'm just talking about Administrative. When I come to meetings, there are often a lot of people hanging around; at the Police Chief Hearings, my God, everybody in Town was there.

Mayor Post: And from other Towns, too, as well, you're correct.

C Hudson and Vice Mayor Betts: We don't pay for that.

Norman Lester: I don't care about other towns then; but everybody that is hanging around; and sometimes we come to meetings and there are many people here and I don't know if they're being paid to be here.

Mayor Post: If they're doing a job in the Town of Milton, yes; so if they are here at the meetings, such as Jenn is here.

Norman Lester: Like tonight?

Mayor Post: Absolutely, absolutely.

Norman Lester: When you are the "Finance Director", you're not exempt from overtime?

Mayor Post: No.

Norman Lester: You're not? Okay; all right. The other reason that I thought you ought to look at the compensation and everybody's work product; the Town only has 23 employees; I'm not sure why we need the HR Director at all.

Mayor Post: I'm not going to be here to discuss; we're going to be discussing the budget; we're not determining whose position we need or don't need, but I'm telling you one thing, the Town is no longer run like it was 5 or 6 years ago; so there is a Human Resource Department, who does make sure we are in Federal compliance; to make sure that all leave slips are in properly; that all time sheets are in properly; that payroll gets to our contractor in time; so there is a lot. It's easy to sit back and say who is important and who isn't.

Norman Lester: Some of that is the Finance Director's job. Can I just make this one comment then? I would like to say when it comes to accounting that last year, the Town received sometime in March, we assume these are real numbers, so nobody in Town got real numbers for the budget until 18 months after the beginning of the Fiscal Year. I don't think that's acceptable. The monthly statements we get and I've mentioned this to you before, and I know you don't believe it, but they are truly worthless, because they don't contain all the information.

Mayor Post: Mr. Lester, we have discussed this on numerous occasions; this was put in place under the Bushey administration; we all agreed with it; and the reason was because you can not run it to the exact date because you have to post according to F.O.I.A. eight days prior and that's when we end the budget. Eight to ten days out and that's just how we do it. And it does make sense; it might not make sense to you; but it does when you're sitting up here.

Norman Lester: But if the numbers don't make sense, how does it all work? I just don't know.

Mayor Post: Our auditor can handle it, because he certainly knows how to put them down and I've got the book right here and he knows how to figure it out.

Norman Lester: Well we have a difference of opinion there too.

Mayor Post: I'm sure of that.

Norman Lester: Okay, I strongly suggest when you look at this budget, you look at each and every salary for the coming year; do not look at the line items; because that's not going to give you any indication of the true cost. This is going to be a difficult year; revenues are going to be down; the Town is going to be possibly facing a huge deficit, this fiscal year about to end; and next year may be even greater than budgeted. It's going to be huge.

Mayor Post: I agree with you 100%; it's going to be several years before we get out of this. But the bottom line is you do have to look at the one line item. I know you would like to know in detail, everybody's salary and I'm aware of that; but this is how we do it at the State, I've just been through budget hearings at the State, we look at the overall to depend upon how much has to be cut even whether positions have to be cut; but to balance the budget you do have to do it by line item. Then you determine whether you are giving raises, whether we are doing pay cuts, or whatever we're doing.

Norman Lester: But you have to look at the overall cost and I don't get the feeling the Town looks at the cost; I think you approach it almost like the Federal Government, raise the revenues and keep the cost.

Mayor Post: Mr. Lester, they have had weekly budget meetings. We would not be in the situation we are in right now otherwise; because we are in a very good position; yes, we are in a deficit, but it could be a lot worse. I'm going to be honest about that. I agree with you, we need to look at overtime and we need to look at the salaries as a whole.

Norman Lester: We trust you do.

- b. Cliff Newlands, 110 Oysterman Drive, Wagamon's West Shore: I want to clarify for the record, I hope that the deficit is actually \$180,000; that you are publishing in the report that you gave out last month \$108,314; and that there is really \$72,000 in revenue reserves in that budget; so that your deficit is really \$180,000.

Mayor Post: No that's incorrect, but go ahead.

Cliff Newlands: That's what you're showing in the report. Your budget shows that you have \$180,000 that needs to be spent. So \$108,000 of deficit and there's \$72,000 in revenue reserves that you're using. That's what is in the report.

C Abraham: We haven't used any from the reserves.

Cliff Newlands: That's what is being reported.

Mayor Post: That's an a la carte thing to choose from whether we want to go with those other items. It is not in the budget right now; we can pull it into the budget.

Cliff Newlands: Yes it is, it's in the report. It is in the report. I'm sorry. It's under General \$70,000 and under Parks there's \$1,900 for water for the Aqua

Scope. So it's in there, believe me. I didn't dream these things up. I got this out of your reports.

C Hudson: General Revenues \$70,000.

Cliff Newlands: Now Item 5150 – Insurance: your insurance bills, I don't know why are just going up, up, up and again. I mean you're up to, last year it was up to \$173,000 for everybody; and now its \$188,000. Do you have an insurance agent that you look at and go through? I'm hoping we are not doing this on our own.

Mayor Post: Yes.

Cliff Newlands: It is going up tremendously; you're almost back to where you were.

Mayor Post: Almost everything is going up tremendously.

Cliff Newlands: I know, but you are almost back to where you were 2 years ago with insurance and I thought the employees were paying part of this.

C Abraham: They are.

Cliff Newlands: I know they are, but last year it was \$173,000; now its \$188,000. That's a lot of money for 23 employees. Last year I had a pet peeve also about supplies; \$34,000 for supplies; that's \$1,478 per employee for supplies.

C Abraham: That's really not really per employee.

Cliff Newlands: Well, if you divide that by 23, it is.

Mayor Post: Did you pull that out of the total of all the line items? Do you understand how much are treatment chemicals are for water?

Cliff Newlands: They are \$10,000, I know, but they are not in here. That's a separate line item. I argued that point last year about that going from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for the chlorine, so I know that's not in supplies. I questioned that last year and I got back from Mr. Dickerson that it was pens, pencils, toilet paper, paper towels...

Mayor Post: That's not true, but I'm not going to go there.

Cliff Newlands: He published that on the web-site last year. I have the copies with me if you like. These are the answers that I got.

C Abraham: It's been cut in half since 2008.

Mayor Post: You're exactly correct, it's been cut in half from 2008.

Cliff Newlands: From 2007. It's up \$4,000 from last year. Last year it was \$30,500; this year its \$34,000; but my point is its \$1,478 per employee if you divide it up. That's a lot of money per employee if you divide it up; that's a lot of money per employee. There's an item in here for the Park Department for the Milton Memorial Park and the Mill Park for \$6,000 and there's nothing attributed to that. You have lots of things categorized: equipment; repairs and things like that; this one just has a generic park.

Mayor Post: Its maintenance, but they can break that out for you, too.

Cliff Newlands: That hasn't been broken out.

Mayor Post: That can be broken out for you, its mulch, its maintenance; you have to take care of the parks.

Cliff Newlands: I fully understand that. The Parks are looking very good. Printing and postage again; this is going up \$4,000; this can't be \$4,000 for the rate increase.

Mayor Post: We know exactly to the T what our postage is for the Town of Milton; it is based on the previous year.

Cliff Newlands: It has gone up \$2,500.

Mayor Post: It is one mailing.

Cliff Newlands: Underneath the Administrative Staff there is \$11,000 in printing and postage, which is...

C Abraham: That would cover the mailings for the water bills.

Cliff Newlands: Water bills have their own printing and postage; code has their own printing and postage; two years ago all this stuff was brought out and divided out by department; which is fine, to make each department responsible for their own budget, I agree with that. The next one I'm questioning is \$32,000 for equipment maintenance and repairs for admin. That's a lot of money for, I'm assuming Town Hall? It says equipment; it's under Admin, its \$32,000 for equipment maintenance and repair.

Mayor Post: Jenn has all that written down and in the workshop she can bring out the details.

Cliff Newlands: I think it is just a lot of money for equipment for Town Hall, considering water and parks has all the other real hard equipment in town. I think we could also postpone just getting this stormwater drain cleaning system for a year or town and borrow Milford's.

Mayor Post: I agree. I think we don't need to do the leaf clean-up this time. We've got to look at some service issues, so I agree with you.

Cliff Newlands: Right, right, I understand. And there are no SALLE and EDIE grants; I know MSA was cut from the State? I didn't see any SALLE and EDIE in the budget.

Mayor Post: We don't know until we receive them and that's in the works right now, so we don't put them in there until we have receipt of them.

Cliff Newlands: They were in previously, that is the reason I'm questioning them.

Mayor Post: Maybe we had them at that time, I don't know.

- c. Dennis Hughes, 301 Chestnut Street: First thing I would like to address is the fees for the Historic Preservation; I see that you're going to raise them to \$640. Don, you know yourself when your Committee was working on that, I came to a lot of meetings and we had a lot of discussions over that. My understanding was this was more of an advisory type committee. Now I see we're going to pay; if I want to put up a fence in my yard, then I'm going to have to pay a \$650 fee and if I can't put it in on the line, then I'm going to have to go to the Board of Adjustments and my neighbor.

Mayor Post: I'm in agreement with you.

Dennis Hughes: I don't think that Historic Preservation needs that amount of fees; and if you agree that was one of the things that the Committee kind of

agreed on. The other thing is we keep talking about the revenue reserves; how much does the town actually have?

Mayor Post: I believe it is a little over \$2 million and we will also be collecting over the next several years another \$2 million; there is \$1.5 million that will be coming over a period of time due to the land sales of Sam Lucas, which is coming very close, it should be within the next 60 days and also \$500,000 that's owed to us in annexation impact fees up at the Dr. White property. So we have over \$2 million; plus \$2 million uncollected; that is revenue that will be future revenue collected.

Dennis Hughes: Is the Dr. White project still ongoing?

Mayor Post: What I heard the other day it was, yes.

Dennis Hughes: So you're projecting those fees?

Mayor Post: No, we're not projecting those fees; I'm just saying there are \$2 million of uncollected and over \$2 million in accounts.

Dennis Hughes: What the previous gentleman said, I've seen that too, and if you take the total receipts and the total expenses, we are over like \$108,515; but in the budget not to balance it, but to put the other, under General Revenue like he said, there is \$70,585 and in water there is \$1,900 from reserves and then the Municipal Street Aid the money that you've lost there was \$59,300 put in there, so basically, if you take \$108,000 from the reserve, plus the other we're talking almost \$240,000 out of the reserve.

Mayor Post: The street aid we have already in that account; so that's not true. It's \$70,000 some odd; there should have been and I don't know why it is not there, it was in the budget workshop; there should have been like an a la carte of 70 some thousand that we can choose, the base budget of deficit is \$108,000; there is 70 some other thousand dollars there that's a la carte that we can choose to say forget it; we're not doing it; or we'll say yes we do; and every time we say yes we do; it will raise the deficit it that X amount and it was broken out too.

Dennis Hughes: Okay, the other thing I noticed too that a lot of places had to cut things at work. I noticed that still in there was a Holiday Party and Christmas Bonuses; that's something I think maybe could be cut.

Mayor Post: I think that's in the a la carte; we did cut it last year; we did not have an office party last year.

Dennis Hughes: I believe it's in the budget, if you look.

C Duby: If it's in yellow, then it is not in there. It's an option that we can choose to say yes or no.

C Abraham: See the Holiday Party is in yellow, so it is not added into the budget.

Dennis Hughes: So that total is actually wrong, then.

Mayor Post: The highlight might not be showing, the total in yellow are things that are falling in that a la carte, just so people that are sitting out there that didn't come to the Budget Meeting, because we only had a couple of people at our first Workshop to make sure that they understand, that in the yellow are

things that are a la carte; that we can say yes we are interested in or we just flat out say no and they are not included in the \$108,000.

Dennis Hughes: Well it should probably say something with an asterisk, these are not included. I don't think it does, maybe it does, and I'm not sure. And the other thing is, were there any recommendations from the auditor and the way we did the budget or anything last year?

Mayor Post: No, I don't believe so. I would have to look it up. The depreciation for water; that's the only thing he recommended.

Dennis Hughes: That's all he recommended. Okay. That's all I have.

- d. Richard Ashby, 105 Front Street: I had a business in Milton for 7-8 years; Gateway Funding, across the street. We had been in the process for the past 2 years being told I have to do a Zoning Change on the property; even though it's Town Center and I'm trying to open an approved use in the Town, on a property in Town Center, but I'm told I have to do a Zoning Change. So, one of the things I'm running into is with this new budget that their proposing, that it is going to cause an extreme hardship on me is the Zoning Change. They are going from four meetings of the Zoning Change of \$100 apiece; a letter from DelDOT; and a survey, which is about \$2,000; which has been a hardship for me at the time. Now we're going to \$10,000 in fees, if you try and get a Zoning Change. Now a small business owner is going to have a hard time doing anything on Union Street, Federal Street, whatever a person that has a home or residence and wants to do something out of that is looking at a \$10,000-\$11,000 bill. It makes it very, very, very hard for anybody self-employed to try and do anything.

C Martin-Brown: What kind of Zoning Change are you being asked to do?

Richard Ashby: What happened is when the Town Council changed the zoning, from Commercial to Town Center; there are a list of things that are approved and a list of things that are Special Use. The property has Special Use, right now, which is auto repair. I do not want to get rid of that, but I want to add Approved Use to that property; and I'm being told that I have to change it from Special Use to Approved Use and looking at all these fees.

Mayor Post: But Mr. Ashby, we've given you a letter in detail regarding this, and since you want to discuss it here, I would like to publicly get it clear on this issue too, and you and I have had many discussions; you wanted to take it from a single unit building, like the gas station and you wanted to put multiple services and multiple shops, just like the old Milton Sausage and Scrapple.

Richard Ashby: There is a difference between one owner; one business.

Mayor Post: Mr. Ashby, let me explain it; no its not. Because they had to do the same thing over at Milton Sausage and Scrapple when they took that sausage factory and converted it and chopped it up to five or six shops. It's the same thing; there was no problem with you moving your financial company down there.

Richard Ashby: That's not what I was told. That's not what I was told.

Mayor Post: But you have a detailed letter on this.

Richard Ashby: I was told by Robin that I have to change it from Special Use to Approved Use and that's what I've been stuck at; whether I keep the garage or not.

Mayor Post: I believe your real problem, right now, and you've been telling us, don't _____ because they want to close off; they said any change of use...

Richard Ashby: We haven't even gotten that far yet.

Mayor Post: That's fine. I know what you've told me in the past.

Richard Ashby: So basically what we're going from is from a \$1,500 to \$2,000 issue; with these economic times, I have a construction company and a mortgage company and this has been the worst two years of the nation's history; and now we're going and wanting to take an increase; and anybody that wants to rezone a property to almost \$11,000; at the worst possible time that you can do that; if you want to try to get business to come to Milton.

Mayor Post: I don't quite think its \$11,000; I know we had some strong conversation at the workshop on these issues, but also keep in mind is that what we've done is fine tuned what it actually cost for that process to the Town of Milton, of what we have to pay the people that are involved in this process.

Richard Ashby: What is the cost of losing businesses?

Mayor Post: The thing is that we are going through a crisis as well; is it fair for taxpayers who are not doing anything to have to pay for these services that are being provided as well? It's a double edged sword.

Richard Ashby: Do you want the business? I had 11 employees.

Mayor Post: I understand what you're saying and I agree with you and again I think what you're going to see is what they did and whether it's right or wrong, they were showing the actual cost; they also projected what we would need to cover that actual cost, whether or not you understand or not, you do pay a much bigger fee then that application because there are a lot of charges added above that because its an ongoing charge, even when you're in the process. We're trying to make it a little bit more accurate so people when they came in they knew exactly how much the cost was instead of getting hit with it a \$3,000, \$4,000 or \$5,000 bill at the end on some of these big change of use projects.

Richard Ashby: I understand a big Change of Use taking a property or acreage and turning it into a sub-division and something of that sort; but a single family if somebody is trying to do something with their property downtown, whatever it is, a small person taking \$10,000 or \$11,000 and having them throw it out in fees is excessive.

C Martin-Brown: Mr. Mayor, with all due respect, a lot of these dynamics being explored tonight in the public hearing, the assumption underlying the dynamic is that these things are locked in stone.

Richard Ashby: That's why I'm here.

C Martin-Brown: My observation as just one member of the Council is that we should be hearing what your concerns are, and everybody else's, and they will inform the debate of the Council's deliberations on this budget. None of

this is locked in stone and this is your chance to do what you are doing. I think we will have some interesting dynamics among members of the Council, as we proceed. I do think it is important that we do make that point. Thank you.

C Hudson: These are proposed and that's one reason why we want to hear from you, because as Robin said a number of times at our workshop, the Town has been absorbing a number of these costs and the question is it was even brought up that do we make enough to cover even his salary in addition to the cost? So we have to decide how much we're going to continue to pay by the Town and how much we're going to pass on to the people; because one thing I would like to see is the Town Council to have control of these line items and not just strictly consider the bottom line; because if we don't control each line item and vote for changes; then it's a total waste to look at any of it; we might as well just vote on the bottom line and be done, if we're going to allow employees to move money from line item to line item. It is one thing to say, as needed; but to do it without Council voting; means the money is out of control. In addition to taking a good look at everything that has been mentioned here, we also need to take a good look at what we're doing as a Council to make sure that this budget is adhered to and that if one department needs to use more money and another department has an extra, that we vote on it; and not these decisions made and then we find out about them later. Thank you.

Richard Ashby: I can understand dealing with the legal fees if it is a sub-division; the amount that's dealt with; you have to have a lawyer; all the expenses of that

Mayor Post: Engineer.

Richard Ashby: But dealing with a single property, there should be a dollar cap of some sort for the cost of the project. I'm taking an existing building that's not doing anything but cosmetic changes in trying to open my business and to look at a \$10,000 or \$11,000 bill on that, keeps me from being able to do it. When I had 11 employees in my with the other location, those people bought in Milton, they bought coffee at the shop, they spent money, they were in town during the day; in the morning at 7:30 – 8:00 and there again at 4:30 in the afternoon; and we need a lot more of that; and we need to be able to somehow make that available to people to be able to take their property and try and make that happen; otherwise Downtown is just going to close up and Route 16 is going to be a shopping center. I do have one other issue. Boat slips – 5 or 6 years ago, they took the boat slips and changed it from \$50 in the season to \$100; and that was fine. Now they're proposing to take it from \$100 to \$200; well that starts to get to where, right now the going rate is about \$800 or \$900 or \$1,100 to be across the bay from the Rudder. I don't think we have that kind of draw and I think that's excessive; I think that's too much of an increase. There are only six slips; you're not going to get that much revenue off that.

Mayor Post: We have a waiting list.

Richard Ashby: But there are only six slips.

C Hudson: Right, but at the same time we're only raising the rental fees, from \$50 to \$75; and we could actually be making more money spreading it out over the rental fees, then if we tried to hit these six slips downtown.

Richard Ashby: Right and the other thing, then in the winter time they are taking it from \$50 to \$100; well, I'm the only boat, other than another boat, that has left my boat in the past 7 years, that has left my boat in that slip for the past 7 years. That fee is directly affecting me. I can pull it this year, because then it makes it cheaper for me to keep in the water here, which is fine I can keep a close eye on it; or when it starts to become \$700, \$800 or \$900 it is cheaper for me to take it down to Lewes to dry dock it; so that has a direct affect on me. Thank you.

- e. Dick Grieg, Union Street: I'm sorry for being late; I thought the meeting started at 7 pm. My family and I have lived here for nine years and all of us are involved in the town and really like Milton. I have a question that doesn't relate to that; but before I get to the question, I want to extend to all of you who worked as volunteers sitting up front there, we appreciate you. My question was to go to Don and George, but George is not here; so it will just go to Don; I'm not sure I've got this right; it's a niggling doubt just rolling around in my cerebral cortex and you can't scratch it so I came in to ask about this. The amount of money that we are going to increase or the Town's going to increase our budget for the following year (2009-2010) is about equal, it's just an estimate, to what it is going to cost the Town to deal with the imbroglio with the Police Chief. Why is that so close?

Mayor Post: Well, you're totally incorrect on that. I'm not going into that tonight.

Dick Grieg: Why?

Mayor Post: You're wrong on the figures. Considering also legal fees, we were two years fighting a frivolous lawsuit regarding blocking of Sam Lucas property, which cost us hefty legal fees over two years time; this is not costing that type of legal fee and I'm not going to get into due process. But due process was taken; the process was voted on by Council; we've moved forward; and sometimes you have to make those decisions; and you make decisions you don't like.

Dick Grieg: I personally think you made a mistake. That isn't the point of my question, Don, we're talking about money. Why is it so similar? Are we trying to fill in a gap with taxpayer's money?

Mayor Post: Similar, it's not similar. I don't even understand what you're stating. Who told you \$118,000?

Dick Grieg: I didn't mention \$118,000.

Mayor Post: You said the amount that we're in the deficit that we're trying to fill up the gap. What I want to make perfectly clear that the expenses are all within our budget of this year's budget; we are not going over budget with anything; we're at probably 90 some percent which is exactly where we

should have been on the voted budget. I don't know what you're talking about the \$118,000. I'm not going to sit here talking about the process.

Dick Grieg: I didn't mention \$118,000. Did I mention that?

Mayor Post: Then what are you talking about – it's the exact same number as something?

Dick Grieg: No, I didn't say it was the same number, I said it was similar. Are you trying to manipulate this, so you can get us to pay for your decision?

Mayor Post: Absolutely not, because it has nothing to do with those decisions, because the decisions were from this year's budget. I don't understand.

Dick Grieg: We're on apples and oranges.

C Martin-Brown: They are two different fiscal years.

Mayor Post: Absolutely right. We're talking about next year's budget, which is \$108,000 deficit.

C Duby: My interpretation, and correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Grieg, my interpretation of what he said is that it's not the deficit he's talking about; he's talking about the amount of change in the budget from one year to the next. I have no way of judging what you're talking about without figures, because, frankly as a Town Council person, I have not seen figures on how much the Police Chief Hearing is costing us; so I'm a little puzzled as to why you think you know how much that's costing.

Dick Grieg: Just by estimating. Lawyers' hours; hours for...

C Duby: This is a moot discussion because nobody has the bottom line figures. I understand that the point that you're making is, that you disagree with our decision to have done that; and I take that under advisement; I enjoy hearing people's opinions; but from a budget standpoint I think this isn't something we can discuss because we don't have figures in front of us.

C Hudson: When will we be getting those figures?

Mayor Post: I have no idea because there are many legal fees that were entwined with the other three issues, within the Police Department that we've had to represent, as well. There have been legal fees within the Police Department the whole twelve months.

C Hudson: Doesn't the attorney itemize specifically which work she does and per hour how much she does and on which assignment?

Mayor Post: C Hudson we certainly can get it.

C Hudson: I think what he's talking about it, what he would like to see the cost of the court reporter and the cost of the investigator and the costs of the attorney's fees.

Mayor Post: I can tell you that the cost of the investigator, as I testified, was \$20,000; it was \$15,000. I was \$5,000 off on that.

Dick Grieg: Are you going to replicate all of that for the community; break it down into categories and let us know how much you spent for that?

Mayor Post: I don't know how we are going to do that. We can do that in legal fees and that's how it's going to be; because we're probably not going to break down all the legal fees that we've done on numerous cases involving the Police Department this year; of having to represent different issues involved

with them. You will see the legal fees that were from within the Police Department; you can see the legal fees from the Administration Department; and also the reimbursement for whenever we get reimbursed from a contractor or a developer, etc. (on administrative side).

Vice Mayor Betts: Mr. Grieg, are you asking that what you think we will be more in debt than the \$108,000, if we add what the charges will be?

Dick Grieg: Yes.

Mayor Post: The fees will be in this year's legal fees and will have nothing to do with next year's budget, so I'm a little confused.

Vice Mayor Betts: I'm a little confused. I think I know what he's saying. What he's saying is we've already got a deficit of \$108,000 for next year, which we have not paid our legal fees for this year yet, is that right? Are we up to date?

Mayor Post: Yes we have. We pay them ongoing; we pay them monthly.

Vice Mayor Betts: They're coming out of this year's budget. So we have money to pay that?

Mayor Post: Yes.

Vice Mayor Betts: And it is not the \$108,000?

Mayor Post: No.

Dick Grieg: So why did we have to raise the fees next year?

C Martin-Brown: Mr. Grieg, if I might, the current cost, whether they are legal or stormwater or whatever, are budgeted in this year's budget which ends October 1st.

Dick Grieg: I understand that.

C Martin-Brown: The projections are that we will, even with the legal fees going along, come in at budget. That's the current assumption. This is focused on the October 1, as you understand, the new fiscal year.

Dick Grieg: Right, I understand that. Are we going to have enough money to pay for this?

Vice Mayor Betts: That's what he's asking.

Mayor Post: Yes.

C Martin-Brown: You could conjecture that the impulse for the fee discussion is to claw back money in the next fiscal year to pay for the Police Chief's Hearing. That, in fact, is not germane to the discussion. What we have to do when we meet in a Workshop, the Council Members, is to take a look at the \$108,000 and say what do we have to cut in this budget to get down to our revenues and in addition, are we charging enough so we don't have built in every year a deficit, because we are not pricing it cost basis in a zero sum budget arrangement, what things really cost? The impulse for the fee discussion was what are we not charging? Now, you don't have before you, but we asked at our last workshop, what does Milford do in this situation; what does Georgetown in their situation, with regard to fees? We have just received tonight, which is not pertinent to the discussion, the way they look at cost plus.

Mayor Post: But we'll use that for the Workshop the week after next.

C Martin-Brown: Yes, but my point is that I can understand that there may be some vision or mindset that would say well the only reason the fees are going up, is to pay for this public hearing. That isn't valid, because the public hearing costs, are not only required by State Regulations, but they are within this year's budget.

Dick Grieg: I understand that.

C Martin-Brown: I just think we need to keep the fees and hearing and the fiscal years separate, to continue the discussion, sir.

C Hudson: You said the cost of this hearing was within this year's fiscal budget?

C Martin-Brown: Yes.

C Hudson: I don't remember when we voted on this year's fiscal budget, that we allowed \$15,000 or \$20,000 for an investigator or costs for over 1,000 pages worth of court reporting or the additional attorney's fees for this hearing; I don't see any line items for that; I don't know where that's budgeted in.

Mayor Post: It's under legal fees.

C Hudson: There's only the total of \$45,000 in legal fees.

Mayor Post: C Hudson you don't ever and I've talked to numerous mayors all over this country, not just Delaware, there are always legal battles and legal suits coming up; they're unplanned for; you have it in your budget under legal fees and not only that; two year's ago we had to settle an \$85,000 legal fee from the prior administration, as far as a settlement cost. So, you always have things that are coming up; we didn't plan for the \$85,000 that year; but we covered it.

C Hudson: That's what I'm saying; how are you going to cover it?

Mayor Post: What are you going to say in a settlement, you're not going to do it? It's covered, it's under legal fees and it's covered. That's it.

Dick Grieg: Is legal fees is some kind of elastic thing that grows? That's what it sounds like.

C Hudson: The total legal fees are \$45,000.

Mayor Post: It's whatever we estimate and it's possible we go over in that line item. I manage a budget at the State and there is flexibility and transferring and its federal dollars and I can transfer over \$25,000 in my budget without telling anyone and I don't ever have to tell it to the State. For somebody who sits here that says this line item is \$3,000 and by the end of the year it is going to be \$3,000; there's no evidence that that's going to happen. There was no way to know that legal fees could have been set aside in the Police Department for this year.

Dick Grieg: So you're saying you're going to rob Peter to pay Paul? You're confusing me, Don.

Mayor Post: Obviously, then you don't manage budgets.

Dick Grieg: I've done a lot of that, Don.

Mayor Post: I have too and I'm not going to argue with you. The bottom line is I have and absolutely if you think just like your home budget and your

furnace goes out and you say well I don't have the budget, so I'm not going to put in a new furnace, that's not realistic. Running a Town is even a lot worse, running a State is even bigger. There are things that come up within a budget that absolutely you might not have accounted for. You never know when you're going to get sued; you never know when you're going to have to sell; you never know when a pump goes out of the pump house that costs us \$30,000, we've had that; you never know when a water main will break on one of our town streets and we've had that. That happens all the time.

Vice Mayor Betts: I think maybe what Mr. Grieg is saying, in the Police budget, we budgeted \$18,000 last year. This year we've already spent \$40,000. That's what he's asking about.

Mayor Post: And it came out of the Police Department budget, it's the move from the Police Department budget.

Vice Mayor Betts: So we're over budgeted; so we'll still be over budgeted.

Mayor Post: The total line amount of the Police Department is \$700,000 and that is what is approved for the Police Department budget \$700,000; whatever; it's not going to be \$800,000.

Vice Mayor Betts: I understand.

Mayor Post: It's going to be within that \$700,000 range.

Vice Mayor Betts: But we're talking about line items and I think that's what Mr. Grieg is concerned about.

Mayor Post: Then we should have discussed that when we moved forward when we voted to move this process forward.

Vice Mayor Betts: I can see where he's confused because I looked at that...

Dick Grieg: I'm not the one that's confused.

Mayor Post: That will show when you do the audit and you're closing out of this year's budget; the actual of every one of those line items of what it is and the comparison and the percentage of whether it's under or over.

Vice Mayor Betts: I'm confused too, because I'm seeing that we have over-budgeted for that one line item, so you're saying that we can use it from the other part of the budget, that we can move it.

Mayor Post: Absolutely.

Vice Mayor Betts: So you can move it from one line to another.

C Hudson: But if you move it from one line item to another what are you not getting in this other line item if you spend that money for this over here; basically robbing Peter to pay Paul, if you don't end up with a balanced budget then you're not getting Streets & Sidewalks or Lights or Donations.

Mayor Post: Well, if you want to put it that way; if it's taken from within the Police Department budget. It has nothing to do with Streets & Sidewalks.

C Hudson: So what are we not getting in the Police Department budget? Are we getting eight policemen, instead of the ten we had, so we're losing security?

Mayor Post: I haven't seen any security; I've seen eight empty vehicles sitting all the time; but I've not seen any lack of security with the lack of police.

C Hudson: But if you take it from here and you spend it over there, you're not having...

Mayor Post: I'm not going to sit here and go in the wind with this. It's kind of at a moot point as far as I'm concerned. The thing is, is that's how it is with a budget. If you don't understand that, I don't think I can explain it. There are many times when things happen with a budget that you have to adjust it. The budget was adjusted.

Dick Grieg: Tonight you taught me things I never knew about budgets. Thank you, I'm finished.

- f. Joanne Mattioni, 309 Union Street: I first want to say that I also have a problem with the proposed pay raises and when the Town is in a deficit and the nation is in a recession. Also, I have a problem with the insurance costs, in this day in age, most other agencies, both government and civil have their employees contribute to their health plans, especially if their families are covered and I believe that our employees should contribute to covering their families, and that the Town should not be footing the whole bill. Another issue I have is with the proposed fees. I believe that they are exorbitant and I believe that regardless of whether or not people are coming and filing applications and having hearings; it is the purpose of the Administration and the Committees to have the meetings on a monthly basis. I don't believe that the individual Applicant should be footing the bill for finding a place for the meetings. You mentioned about taxpayers paying when they are not using the services; that is the purposes of taxes; that is the purpose of government; everybody pays school taxes; not everybody sends their children to school; but we still have to pay the taxes. The process is there for people if they want to use it; the fact that they are not using it, doesn't mean that they shouldn't pay taxes; and support their government in action; in this case it's the Town. You are also talking about frivolous lawsuits and legal fees and, in parting, I would like to ask when it comes to frivolous lawsuits, what did it cost the Town in Police, Administration and Legal Fees to bring criminal charges against Bark Avenue and force us to go to a four hour trial in criminal court? I think that was frivolous and I think that was wasting taxpayer's money. Thank you. Oh, also, with the workshop, are people able to make comments. Any comments have to be made tonight and any answers should to be made tonight.

Mayor Post: No comments can be made at the Workshop. Answers will be brought up for discussion at the Workshop.

Joanne Mattioni: After the Workshop, will there be another session where people can ask questions?

Mayor Post: No, the Charter dictates this and we're on a very tight timeline and it will be voted on at next month's regular Council Meeting. I do want to comment that last year we chose to have employees pay 30% of their insurance for their families.

Joanne Mattioni: Why have the insurance costs gone up so much?

Mayor Post: Well, they've gone up all over and we certainly will look into that; we will be discussing that at the Workshop, but I know they have priced out the insurance from numerous carriers and this was the still the best one we have; so we'll ask that question.

C Hudson: What about single employees; are they still getting 100% of their benefits without paying 1 cent? That's what I'm saying; single employees don't have to pay anything.

Stephanie Coulbourne: Last year, Council voted for the employees to get their coverage for themselves at 100%; you voted for the employee to pay coverage for family at 30%; that was what was voted on last budget year. So anybody that is a single employee, the Town is paying for their insurance.

C Hudson: I think that should change. I think even single employees and I said this last time; that single employees should also be paying something; I'm a single employee and I work for the State and I'm paying; they just increased my payments by 50% on my benefits; I don't think Town single employees should be getting 100% benefits. To be honest, I said that last time.

- g. John Boores: I have two questions, first one being is the Code Enforcement Group, are they the only division in the Town that has budgeted to get back every penny that's put out? And I guess my question is, when there's some sort of function in the Park, whether it be the Horse Shoe Crab Festival or the Concerts in the Park on Wednesday night, does the Chamber of Commerce reimburse the maintenance department for the time and money spent to clean the park up the next day?

Mayor Post: No.

John Boores: So, Robin's department has just budgeted it, this particular way, to try to recoup all the money.

Mayor Post: No, it's never been done that way, at all and as a matter of fact, I believe, Robin's department is the one that runs as a profit.

John Boores: I just took a brief look at it on line and I noticed that he's trying to recoup every penny of his salary.

Mayor Post: I don't think that so. There are a lot of other things that Robin is doing, but the thing is that these things are actual costs, like when we're bringing in an actual development, or whatever, we're paying thousands of dollars for engineering fees, reviews of site plans, after site plan, etc. I did want to make a comment even about Planning & Zoning or Board of Adjustment or the Historic Preservation Commission by the previous person, that we wouldn't be having those meetings, if there were no Applicant. We hold those meetings only when there is an Applicant.

John Boores: If there wasn't a function in that Park, from the Chamber of Commerce, you wouldn't have the guys out there picking up trash.

Mayor Post: Probably would, the way people litter. The Town does the Concerts in the Park.

John Boores: I don't think so, after having 1,200 people in the Park on a Wednesday night.

Mayor Post: It comes under the Town.

John Boores: I've been to one of them and if I choose not to go to them, I'm still paying for the Concert in the Park.

Mayor Post: Like anything else. The one thing about the Concerts, because we've gotten a little bit more fine-tuned on actual cost of the concerts too, with the mailings and all, we probably run around \$1,500 loss throughout the entire summer on the concerts.

John Boores: But I think there was \$7,000 budgeted for the year.

C Duby: The concerts themselves are paid for by donors; if you go to a concert it says, this was sponsored by Kings Ice Cream or Sposato's or whatever. The only cost that the Town incurs for those concerts is the cost for printing and mailing the flyer that goes out to everyone with the schedule on it. It goes to everyone in the 19968 zip code.

John Boores: And cleaning up the park afterwards, for the maintenance people.

C Duby: The Park is available to the public at large; to organizations; to events; and those events bring people into the Town, that shop in the stores and so on. The Park is a public facility, so it cleaned by maintenance people, whenever it is used; there's work done related to those events and so on.

John Boores: Often times there are charges for permits to use the Park if you know there's going to be 1,500 people in the Park and somebody is going to have to clean it and the cost of that permit maybe shouldn't be passed on to all the taxpayers. That's all that I'm saying.

C Duby: I happen to agree; having been an education policy person in Washington, DC for many years, I happen to agree with Joanne Mattioni the previous speaker, who said that we don't all have kids in the schools, but we all pay for the schools and the reason we do is that it is an investment in the future of the country to educate kids; just as that's the cases, I think all taxpayer's in this Town benefit when there is more business in Town and more businesses come in and frankly, my opinion is that the events that go on in our Park contribute to that and I would be very opposed to starting to charge people for those events, because I think it brings good into the Town.

John Boores: I agree, but I think charging exorbitant fees for permits and such, to bring people into the downtown district, businesses and stuff, that also helps the community.

Mayor Post: I know, but, when you look at those fees, I'm telling you that those are the actual fees that they would be charged anyway; we start with a small application fee and they have to pick up all the costs of the Engineer, the Consultant (URS) who has to review the plans, the attorney; all of that gets passed on to the Applicant. What we have been finding and I can't blame people, that if you start out with a \$500 application fee and the next thing you know, when the bills start coming in, they might have \$3,000 bill in the process; however, this way they thought it might best to put the actual fee, whether I agree with it or not is irrelevant; this is just a proposal; but the

actual fee there and people will know exactly what it will cost when they come in. It's just about what they would have to pay anyway.

John Boores: The only comment I had on the budget, other than the way Robin had proposed his portion of it; was the \$1,600 proposed for the Bowflex for the Police Department. Don, it was there.

Mayor Post: It's what they put in and it was in yellow and it was one of those things that it's like 2 police cars, or anything. We didn't remove it; it's something that they have proposed; it doesn't mean they're going to get it.

John Boores: I'm just voicing my opinion. My theory is, you don't want to pay them overtime to sit there and work out, you're off work, go home.

- h. Stephanie Parker, 113 Broad Street: First, I would like to thank you all for being here and listening to what we all are saying to you; the concerns that we have and I hope that you are truly hearing what we are saying, and will take that into consideration as you are going through this process. I implore you, as you are going through this process, to act in a fiscally responsible manner. Everyone is fully aware of the current condition of our economy and how that has affected us all personally and in our households. Now is not a time for luxurious spending. With that in mind, I have a few points I would like to make. One of the budget options, that's not in the budget; it's one of the options that you've been given; is a couple of different versions of raises for the current employees. I don't know if you are aware or not; but if you add up what has been budgeted for the next fiscal year, if you add up the salaries, the overtime and the Town's responsibility of payroll taxes, you are talking about 44% of the budgeted expenses. Current employees are a large expense to this Town. Given the deficit that you are facing, I would think that employee raises at this time, is a luxurious item and not a necessity. If you look at what is also on that same page of a budget option, there is no mention if you give the employees those raises, there's no mention of the cost to the Town for the Town's responsibility of those payroll taxes, your Social Security tax and your Medicare tax; that cost is not in there; so the \$34,000, or whatever the other dollar item that's on there, is not correct. There's also no mention of possible overtime for the employees. When you increase an employees' hourly rate or salary, the cost of that employee working overtime also increases; that is also not on that budget option page; you should take that into consideration if you are even going to think about giving the employees a raise that is an additional cost. Back to what is in the proposed budget. The Holiday Employee Bonus: I see that it is only in the section for Administrative Expenses. Does that mean that none of the other departments are given that same bonus, or are only the Administrative employees given that bonus? If it is given to the other employees, why is not divided up amongst the various departments as the salaries and the taxes are?

Mayor Post: It's paid out of the Administrative funds; that department pays those funds.

Stephanie Parker: As I said, if it's going to the other departments...

Mayor Post: It's \$100 per employee, I believe.

Stephanie Parker: I'm just questioning why it's in the budget, the way it is.

Mayor Post: Because it's paid out of the Administrative budget.

Stephanie Parker: I also would express that a bonus is a luxury item; it is not a necessity and in this year when you are facing a deficit you should be focusing on the necessities for running the Town. The amounts budgeted for the Medicare and Payroll Taxes for the Town employees' salaries do not include any taxes for the bonus; I don't even see those for the previous years.

Mayor Post: We're not required to pay taxes on it; I've talked to our auditor at \$100.

Stephanie Parker: I would urge you to check at www.irs.gov, then. An employee bonus, even a bonus paid in cash, as I understand the Town employees are, is taxable income.

C Duby: Can I request that we drop this. We know there is disagreement about it and a dispute about it and we're not going to solve it tonight and I would love it if we didn't have to get into it at all. We hear what you've said. We're heard what the Mayor said. Let's just drop it, okay?

Stephanie Parker: Also in the Administrative Expenses, there's a line item for Repair and Maintenance Building. What in the world needs \$7,000 on a building that you've said is new? That's my question for you, why is that large expense there? There's also an expense labeled Code Book; I'm kind of curious what that is?

Mayor Post: That's coding of the Ordinances and that's a requirement, we have a contract and that started under the Bushey Administration; which was a good thing. It just came to light, last year; we finally got it to that point. I think it's an ongoing fee.

Stephanie Parker: Nothing has been paid as of this fiscal year. Nothing has been paid.

Mayor Post: Because we just got the book, like three months ago.

C Abraham: We haven't even seen it yet.

Mayor Post: It's still in the works.

Stephanie Parker: I'm just asking that you listen to the concerns. Police Department: you have budgeted \$2,500 for next year's legal fees; and I understand the comments that you've already made that if it goes above, you can just take it from somewhere else in the Police Department's budget; my question is, is that truly a realistic figure? I understand that you may be attempting to pay for the current police legal situation in this fiscal year; I don't realistically see all of those expenses and the possible future expenses happening by the end of this fiscal year, so I question the reality of that dollar figure. I also the question of do we really need two new police cars, Mr. Mayor; you've already pointed out that there are a number of police cars sitting not being used; do we really need two new cars this year? Is that a luxury item or is that a necessity?

Mayor Post: Let me clear that up – it is not a luxury item, because some of those cars are very old, as a matter of fact I just got a notice that one of them

will require a \$4,000 repair bill on it, for us to even run it. So there's a transmission problem with one of them; so I do think you need to keep it up to date; do I think we need two; that's something I have to question myself; and I think you also probably didn't hear that because you weren't at the Workshop; and you didn't hear the fact that they are planning on selling some of those vehicles to cover one of the two new police cars; so to me then they just cover the one they wanted possibly.

Stephanie Parker: Supplies for the Streets and the Parks Departments: the current fiscal year is almost over and the Town has spent less than \$2,000; so I question why the budget is listing \$6,000 and \$5,000 for those various departments; when so little money has been spent this year.

Mayor Post: First of all some of that work in the new park, Milton Memorial Park, was under the grant. In the upcoming fiscal year, we will have two parks, the Milton Memorial Park and the Reading Park down where the John Milton Statue is, that requires mulching, weeding, it requires quite a bit of work, so chemical treatment and on and on; that's all part of running a Town.

Stephanie Parker: Well you have a separate line item for supplies and then you have a line item for Milton Memorial and Mill Park; so which is it?

Mayor Post: They will explain that, because all this will be put into an answer, like we've done even in the past years, but I know that the \$6,000 was for the Parks, so the other, the weed killer, there are a lot of costs; if you think it doesn't cost \$7,000, \$8,000, \$9,000, \$10,000 to maintain two parks, plus you have the boat dock areas that we have to maintain; we have public land that we have to maintain; I mean there's a lot of work there.

C Duby: Mr. Mayor, could we possibly ask our Finance Director if she can shed any light on how those are broken out and what goes into those? Do you know? We've got maintenance and then we've got Milton Memorial and Mill Parks.

Jennifer Cornell: Milton Memorial and Mill Park expenses are just for mulching, maintaining those parks specifically. Any other supplies, they could be chemicals used around the boat area; the Governor's Walk, maintaining that area; the weed-wacker, anything that they need to buy to do that job; we broke out the parks specifically so you would know those costs, the mulching, those big ticket items that are needed for the parks.

Mayor Post: And we'll have Rails to Trails this year, to maintain this year, too.

Jennifer Cornell: Correct.

Mayor Post: So there's another new cost is Rails to Trails.

Stephanie Parker: Well, unfortunately, those weren't broken down in the budget that you published to the public, so we don't know those answers. The trash expenses and revenues, are my reading this correctly that the Town is using the trash to make a profit?

Mayor Post: No.

Stephanie Parker: Well, for the next fiscal year there's \$10,000; for the current year-to-date you're about \$40,000; it appears that way.

Mayor Post: That's through a contract. Jenn would you clarify that too; you don't have to do it right now? Well, go ahead if you want.

Jennifer Cornell: There is a small amount built in to the trash line item, just for administrative costs for billing that out; just for everything we do as far as adding on new homes, maintaining that. If you look at the actual figures vs. what was budgeted, we are under for this year as far as what we've paid out and what we've received, so the actual profit will be around \$10,000 for each year. Again, that's just for the administrative costs.

Stephanie Parker: Has that been broken out the same way that they have now broken out what it is going to cost with the fee schedule for the meetings; has it broken out that it actually costs \$10,000 to send out four bills a year to the townspeople?

Mayor Post: Several thousand dollars for each mailing.

Stephanie Parker: Something for you all to investigate. Because that same bill should not solely go towards the trash; our water bills are on that too; so there's your water department.

Mayor Post: Believe me they have been splitting it down to fine hairs, yes.

Stephanie Parker: The employee overtime – I would encourage you to scrutinize the necessity of overtime for all of the employees who are being paid that figure. In attending the public hearings that have been going on for the Police Chief I have seen what appears to be the vast majority of the town employees standing around watching those hearings all day long. So are we now paying those same employees overtime to go back and do their jobs because they have now spent all day out at Mariner Middle watching the show; it's something to think about. Finally, the line item for the Town Manager expense of \$6,000 – I don't see where that was budgeted for 2009.

Mayor Post: Just to clarify, the majority of the employees are using vacation time; Stephanie just told me that. She's the only one being paid there.

Stephanie Parker: I understand that there would be the need for a couple of employees there.

Mayor Post: She sets everything up there; but the others are taking their vacation for those days.

Stephanie Parker: Something for you to think about, because I've heard a lot of murmuring among the Town's people as we all look around and saw so many.

Mayor Post: Perception makes a lot of different ways for the appearances of things.

Stephanie Parker: The appearances can get you. As I was saying, my final point would be the Town Manager expense of \$6,000; I did not see where that was budgeted for this current year, nor spent any money for this current year; so I questioned why it suddenly came up.

Mayor Post: It's the first time he chose to go ahead, since there's been this question and it is within his contractual agreement. He decided to go ahead and just do a line item for the \$6,000. Again, the perception goes along way. I think he just wanted to bring the perception home.

Stephanie Parker: Well then in accordance with that contract, I would urge you to follow the contract and renegotiate it with him. Spending Town taxpayer money to fund an employee's dinner at a local restaurant, numerous times, I find it offensive, when you're looking at a budget with a deficit.

Thank you.

Mayor Post: And just for clarity, it's not just his, he's out on business, he's working many evenings; he's working with others. You know what; listen to the facts for once, instead of making them up. The thing is, is that he is out there with contractors, with the lawyers, with Dover meetings, with Tidewater, with all these different things. You know what; it is a typical budget scheduling.

- i. Marion Jones, Behringer Avenue: I would like to first thank C Martin-Brown for your kind and welcoming words during this hearing for the public to come up and speak. I've sat through this so far; I'm not getting any warm and fuzzy feelings that any of us are really welcome to say what our concerns are; without getting open argument back. This is a tough year for a lot of people. It is not a year that Milton can choose to isolate itself and do business as usual. I have a couple of items I would like to bring to your attention for consideration. I would like to first follow-up on Mr. Lester's comment in reference to Administrative overtime. I believe it behooves the Council and the management of the Town to be clever in how they spend their money. For example, if these two young women here tonight, are on overtime, is it not possible to simply change the schedules on meeting dates for the employees to work a changed schedule to avoid overtime for those days? For example, could they come to work at noon and work until 8 pm?

Mayor Post: Flex-time.

Marion Jones: Something that would avoid and address overtime. Also would like to address a comment that the Mayor made to Ms. Parker. I am not able to debate that many of the townspeople were on vacation during the hearings, but many of the townspeople were standing there in town uniforms, including police uniforms and polo shirts and work shirts. That to me does not give the image of being on vacation. I can not speak to what their real time was; I can only speak to the image that is projected to the public. I did notice in the budget, there are neither SALLY nor EDI funds listed under police revenue. My concern is this may have been at the very time that the Police Chief was put on suspension. Is it possible that someone from the Town of Milton did not represent at these meetings for these funds.

Mayor Post: Rest assured they have been, and we are receiving them and several other grants, too.

Marion Jones: But those funds are not on the budget under Revenue.

Mayor Post: Because they are not revenue until they are actual Revenue. We do not have those grants yet.

C Martin-Brown: But we've listed grants before that we haven't received.

Marion Jones: You do not have...

Mayor Post: It could be at that time that SALLY grant was in. At this time, it is just now in the process of being approved. As a matter of fact, we have received the funds, so I think by now we could probably... I don't even know when that SALLY grant is active. Do you know when it's active? It could probably be added now. Last week we did receive notice that we did get the SALLY grant of \$15,000.

Marion Jones: At the very least, you might be able to project last year's figures into those line items as you also, I don't believe, have your Sussex County \$15,000 grant in your hands yet either; but it does appear on the budget. Still under the Police Department, \$14,000 for police telephones. It is my understanding that those may indeed represent landlines, in car air cards for the computers and cell phones. Officers for the Town of Milton are dispatched by SusCom; they are dispatched through the radios in their cars and the radios on their duty belts. I cannot for one minute imagine the need of having every officer in the department carry a cell phone. There's also a \$6,300 line item for improved phone system in the Police Department; I can only assume those are for landlines. If the Council would carefully do nothing more than an audit of the monthly cell phone records for police officers, I believe you will find a miniscule amount of phone calls made for actual police business; not private calls.

Mayor Post: We did an audit five months ago and we matter of fact made a lot of changes with the phones and did away with text messaging, because it was excessive; there were sending of photographs; there were numerous things; and there were major changes within the phone services.

Marion Jones: I applaud that, but \$14,000 and every officer carrying a phone card, when for public safety and public safety alone, these officers are dispatched through police radios; not their telephones. It is a line item that I believe deserves looking at. Mayor Post made the comment of eight empty vehicles and as Ms. Parker said, why two more? The sale of the vehicles that are presently on the lot, show a very small amount of revenue; in comparison to three years of bills for two new police cars. Your vehicle maintenance bill was not that high as to indicate that you were having major problems with your fleet other than Mayor Post saying tonight that one, out of the eight parked, needs a \$4,000 transmission.

Mayor Post: We have a whole list that should be within our packet tonight, because that is something we requested and we should have that for reviewing for our workshop.

Marion Jones: I believe that if you continue to use the fleet that you have, instead of purchasing and committing yourself to years of purchase cost of new police vehicles, you will actually find that you get that much wear out of the fleet that you have now without incurring new bills. It costs a lot to dress out a full patrol car and you may be considering using those items and moving those items and moving them to new vehicles. You have a lot of cars on the lot and I just cannot myself imagine that they cannot be put into use for another couple of years. It is a huge line item; each one of these things I bring

up, like the other people that are in this audience, are asking you for due consideration in an attempt to reduce the deficit. I am simply asking you to consider these items.

Mayor Post: While we are on the topic of cars, I just wanted you to understand that they did give us a breakdown and there are 6 listed anywhere from fair to poor and that's a 1995, a 1997, a 1999, a 2001, a 2001 and a 2003. They have anywhere from 484,000 miles down to 91,000 miles on them.

Marion Jones: If they are not broken, use them.

Mayor Post: I agree, but some of them.

Marion Jones: We are looking for anything to save money. It's not argumentative; it's a comment.

Mayor Post: I'm not arguing I'm making a comment that we're absolutely trying because I agree with you over the car issue. I don't think we need any more cars sitting in the parking lot.

Marion Jones: I was struck by the gap of expenses in the Police Department vs. the Revenues. It was a huge gap; you do not expect your Police Department to support your town with revenue; but with the SALLY and EDI money missing, it increases the gap. That's as simple as I can state it.

Mayor Post: \$15,000 in SALLY money and I believe their portion of the budget is \$1,000,000, now we'll increase it by \$15,000. We're working on some other grants, as well.

Marion Jones: We are concerned about the money lost in police overtime. Mr. Dickerson made a statement at the August Town Meeting that the Town has failed to recoup the overtime for officers used for the demolition of the property next to this theatre. I am very curious as to why we were not able to recoup it.

Mayor Post: Because the owner wouldn't pay it.

Marion Jones: Have we placed a lien on their property?

Mayor Post: We have it, its right in the middle of legal, right now. Our attorney is dealing with it.

Marion Jones: If you had loaded that information up front, in an agreement, you may not be then sustaining further legal issues, fighting the battle in this case.

Mayor Post: It was in an agreement; but they chose not to pay it. We had to pay them hourly, we did not know how long it was going to take to tear down the building, State law requires those officers to be out there, and they received the bills and they chose not to pay them.

Marion Jones: Was a bond secured?

Mayor Post: No, I don't think; because we didn't even...

Marion Jones: Escrow?

Mayor Post: No escrow.

Marion Jones: Anything to secure?

Mayor Post: No, nothing.

Marion Jones: To follow up...

Mayor Post: I think it was \$10,000, \$11,000.

Marion Jones: That's a lot of money in overtime.

Mayor Post: And we're going to be liening. Oh, we'll get the money; we'll be getting the money. But we'll have to lien their property, just like all these rats got into it; we're going to have to do around here as well and lien the properties.

Marion Jones: We can not miss any opportunities to recoup our money.

Mayor Post: I agree 100%.

Marion Jones: I'm also concerned with the \$7,000 for repair to Town Hall and wonder if that figure represents specific repairs or anticipated costs.

C Duby: Could I ask the Finance Director about, because I have a question about that, too. It says Repairs and Maintenance, and I would like to know what's included in Maintenance, if that may be what it is? Is that all cleaning?

Jennifer Cornell: Cleaning of Town Hall.

C Duby: So that's all cleaning?

Jennifer Cornell: Mostly, not all of it.

C Hudson: Is that the new contract?

Jennifer Cornell: No, that's the Police Department. The Town Hall has an existing contract.

C Hudson: Were you talking about \$7,000 for cleaning the Police Station?

Marion Jones: It says Repairs and Maintenance.

Mayor Post: Could you break that down, Jenn, so we'll have that broken down?

Marion Jones: I happen to agree with Ms. Parker again in reference to the single employees' needing to help defray their health costs. I do understand that the Council passed that that was a free ride for single employees; however, it is now a common and accepted practice throughout the country in government and private sector alike, for an employee to defray their own health costs. I do not understand how Milton can continue to give away health benefits; the costs will only go up; it is in my personal opinion the responsible management of our money.

Mayor Post: We did do a survey of all the Towns of Delaware and I think you would be rather shocked of how many do pay 100%; whether we should be doing it now or not; you would be very shocked on how many towns do pay 100% of their employees' health benefits.

Marion Jones: I was not a part of your poll, but I think you would be shocked at how many defray the employees' costs; it's not a free ride and if you can name some towns, I'd be very interested in today's economy who can afford to do that.

C Hudson: But even if other Towns do, I think we...

Mayor Post: We have to look at our own budget.

C Hudson: This is our budget; this is not Millsboro's budget; or Middletown's budget; this is Milton's budget; and I think single employees should pay.

Marion Jones: There is a line item for \$2,400 for meetings. I don't understand why the Town of Milton continues to pay for \$150 each time we rent the

Theatre. I find that the lighting in the Theatre is terrible; the acoustics worse. Overall it is unhealthy in this building; parking is often a problem.

Mayor Post: Unhealthy?

C Hudson: Mold.

Marion Jones: Mold.

Mayor Post: Oh, they have found mold here?

Marion Jones: I find that I have allergic reactions every time I leave this building, Mr. Post. Mariner, on the other hand, it is my understanding is without cost. It is well lit and has abundant parking. The public can hear much better in that facility. Again, it is only a suggestion; it is a \$2,400 line item. You might wish to consider this year that it's time to make a change. In conclusion and thank you very much, because I know I've taken a lot of time, the state of the economy this year is very tough and the mere notion of raising taxes is not only irresponsible, it is insensitive; unless or until the Town can prove that they have done everything, and I mean everything, to reduce the cost of operating. The problem is that tonight, in a public hearing, you can hear our voices. Once it gets to the Workshop, we are silenced. We don't have an opportunity again to speak on this issue. So I really appreciate your time and consideration on these matters. Thanks.

- j. D. J. Hughes, 403 Mainsail Lane: I just want to first of all thank you all for having this public hearing to hear us tonight and I want to note that I do find it interesting that the person that presented the budget, isn't even here.

Mayor Post: He's on vacation and as a matter of fact, he's had to change his vacation numerous times. He made his vacation about four months in advance, along with his wife.

D. J. Hughes: That's fine; I just said I find it interesting.

Mayor Post: Well, because at the Workshop, it was gone over in very big detail and he was there and he will be there next week in the Workshop. Just for clarity.

D. J. Hughes: Some of the things that are in the budget, you obviously didn't realize, because Mr. Lester was pointing them out and some others and you were saying that's not in the budget, and it is. So maybe he could have answered those questions.

Mayor Post: I am very well aware of what's in the budget.

D. J. Hughes: Well, it didn't appear so, anyway; none of you should even consider salary or tax increases; it's ridiculous that it was even presented in the budget and I certainly hope that nobody would even vote for any of you if you considered any of that. Unfortunately, I don't really trust the numbers in this budget, because frankly I don't really trust anything the Town Manager does. My first suggestion to save money would be...

Mayor Post: You know what; I really think first of all, that this is not the place for personal vendettas or political accusations or anything like that.

D. J. Hughes: Are you restricting my speech?

Mayor Post: No, I'm not, but I'm just saying there's within reason of being kind of courteous.

D. J. Hughes: Well, he's never been courteous to me. I was talking to him one time and he told me to that he was in a battle of wits with an unarmed man. Respect is earned, not given. Anyway, basically my first suggestion would have been to fire him; but obviously I don't think you're going to do that; so if you choose not to do that, you should remove yourself.

Mayor Post: Do you have anything constructive to say? You can either be constructive or you can leave.

D. J. Hughes: Yes, if you would listen to me. Can I speak? I have sat here and listened to you ramble about how good you are at many meetings and that's why I've stopped coming, so... If you choose not to fire him, you need to at least remove his \$6,000 in expenses. It's absolutely ridiculous. You pay him \$79,000 last year; he's on the pace to make over \$82,000 this year and if you don't believe it, I've got the numbers and I can give them to you; does that come from overtime, is that how he gets more money?

Mayor Post: He does get overtime.

D. J. Hughes: That's funny because that violates his contract. His contract specifically states that anything over 40 he's only supposed to get comp time for. There's no mention of overtime in his contract; so that right there is a violation of his contract. But we spend \$6,000 for him to eat when this year there's not even one dollar in the budget for fire or ambulance protection for this town and when you do give it, you only give \$5,000.

Mayor Post: It's in the budget; it's under a yellow highlight.

D. J. Hughes: So it's not in the budget, when people point out the things that are in yellow, you keep saying it is not in the budget; now you say it is.

Mayor Post: It's proposed, that's exactly right. It's on the wish list of the proposed \$70,000 budget.

D. J. Hughes: So you're contradicting what you were saying earlier.

Mayor Post: I'm not contradicting it; I'm just saying it's there. You've been telling me that this has all been in the budget; it was \$180,000 some deficit.

C Hudson: So you would like to see the \$5,000 given to the fire department?

D. J. Hughes: Yes, if anything, at least take the \$5,000 out of his expenses and give it to the fire company. The Town doesn't pay anything for fire and ambulance, other than whatever donations they receive; so I think that the people could deserve that from the Town anyway. Also, maybe he does need a car, but we have a Town Manager, a Project Manager and a Code Enforcer; I would assume that the Code Enforcer and the Project Manager are really the ones that are riding around in the car. His expenses really should just be traveling to and from meetings, which, you know you can get reimbursed 45 to 50 cents a mile and I think that would be cheaper than the expense of keeping his car; so I ask that you entertain that, as well.

C Hudson: Are you saying that they shouldn't have take-home cars?

D. J. Hughes: I'm not saying everybody, maybe it's not appropriate, but that is probably something you ought to look into. We're talking about buying two

new police cars; if they didn't all take them home, how many would we really need, compared to what we have now? We're talking about selling one, which is good.

Mayor Post: We're talking about selling several.

D. J. Hughes: It says selling one in the budget.

Mayor Post: We've discussed about selling several.

D. J. Hughes: That's fine, but all we have to look at is what's actually in the budget. The other thing I kind of found interesting, is what they were projecting that we're going to sell one of our cars for more than it's going to cost, or maybe that was just broken down over a three year period; I was a little confused about that; it was like \$10,000 revenue to sell one and \$9,000 to get a new one. I'm not real sure about that.

Mayor Post: I think they come in three year leases and then the Town owns them.

D. J. Hughes: Also, the legal fees for the Town are projected to go down next year; I find that very shocking. I think you ought to count on more legal fees then you had this past year, personally. Also, some people have mentioned insurance; but I noticed the insurance is increasing by \$30,000; when in 2009 year-to-date is actually less then what was projected in the 2009 budget. So our year-to-date based on what was projected in last year's budget is less, but in our expenses for the upcoming year, we're increasing by \$30,000.

Mayor Post: Because that's the actual cost of what it will cost to have the insurance.

D. J. Hughes: Why has the year-to-date not met what it was supposed to have been for last year? Are we getting an increase in costs for next year?

Mayor Post: We are getting an increase this coming budget year, yes.

D. J. Hughes: Under the Admin, the Miscellaneous Operating Expenses are decreasing by \$4,000, down to \$1,000; yet this year's year-to-date has almost met the \$5,000 from last year, so I'm just concerned why are we decreasing to \$1,000, when this year's year-to-date is already almost at \$5,000; I'm just concerned that maybe the deficit is a little more then it is being shown as.

Jennifer Cornell: This year's Admin Miscellaneous included the Town Manager's contract; next year it is broken out separately; so you'll see a new line item for next year, the \$6,000, so the \$5,000 for this year included his contract; next year it's separate.

D. J. Hughes: But his contract is for \$6,000.

Jennifer Cornell: Correct, but we still only budgeted at the \$5,000.

D. J. Hughes: So last year's budget wasn't really correct?

Jennifer Cornell: He doesn't have to spend the full \$6,000; that's just what he is allotted.

D. J. Hughes: Okay. I'll echo something somebody else said. I think maybe if times are good, pay \$2,400 to help the Theatre out; but if we're in a deficit situation and we can get meeting places that are cheaper; and maybe even if the facilities are a little better; I suggest we do that. Downtown Beautification is listed as a \$4,000 option, I think that would be a good thing, if we had the

money; but if we're in a deficit, I don't really think we should be looking at that; maybe we could look for some donations to get beautification things done.

Mayor Post: It's the Garden Club; those funds go to the Garden Club.

D. J. Hughes: And the Garden Club is a good thing; I'm just saying that if we're in a deficit and we're proposing an increase in taxes; then we have to look at cutting things.

C Hudson: Last year only \$1,500 of Town funds went to the Garden Club for Downtown Beautification.

Mayor Post: How much?

C Hudson: \$1,500.

Mayor Post: That's not correct.

C Hudson: Plus we also gave them \$1,000 donation, in addition to the \$1,500 for Downtown Beautification; you would have to ask Allen where that money goes for town beautification; exactly what's done.

Jennifer Cornell: I have to double check the line item and I'll do that for the Workshop. I believe the purchase of the bollards were in that line item. The bollards for the Park.

Mayor Post: The bollards, the black bumper things for Rails to Trails.

D. J. Hughes: Also, the Miscellaneous Administration Revenue – I don't know exactly what that is, but it's decreasing from \$17,000 to \$5,000 when the 2009 year-to-date revenue is \$22,000. Is some of that money being shifted to somewhere else where we can't see it or why would we go down from \$22,000 in three quarters to \$5,000 for an entire year?

Jennifer Cornell: This year at the six month we took it to actual; we received a grant for expenses incurred several years ago; so that's why it's higher this year and that was adjusted at six months.

D. J. Hughes: So the grant was for \$16,000?

Jennifer Cornell: It was \$14,000 or \$15,000; I can get the exact number.

D. J. Hughes: If we're not doing salary increases, I believe I'm under the Streets Department now, it says FY 2009 year-to-date Salaries are at \$21,000 and now we're proposing \$32,000 for next year. What's the \$10,000+ difference for?

Mayor Post: You explained that at the last Council Meeting.

Jennifer Cornell: For the salaries for Streets – the Maintenance Department is Streets, Parks and the Water Department. In their budget reallocated all of their wages within those three departments, so that's why you see Water Department went down; they said they needed more time in Streets and Parks, so those went up, Water Department went down to offset that.

D. J. Hughes: Okay. I think the \$7,500 on the leaf machine has been discussed and I think we can probably agree that that's not a necessity, if we're in a deficit. Police overtime – just wondering why it was increasing over last year's; is that based on the rate we've had to pay this year or why is that? For Police legal fees, it looks like we're only assuming \$2,500 in the budget. Last year's budget assumed \$18,000 and year-to-date we're at

\$41,000; so the \$2,500 seems grossly underestimated; which would further increase the deficit that's reported in the budget. Also, what is police advertising?

Mayor Post: I would think that would be the press releases, but there is something else that they need to do.

Jennifer Cornell: If they need to do any major press releases; if we need to acquire a new officer, we need to advertise for that; I'm not sure if they were doing advertising for night out; because I know at times we advertise on the radio for different things for them, as well.

D. J. Hughes: So expenses are for the paper for advertising, basically, for them?

Jennifer Cornell: Correct.

D. J. Hughes: I was a little confused about the new heating system for the Police Station; it looks like we removed about maybe \$1,500 from last year and it says because we're getting a new heating system. But then I believe the new heating system appears in yellow, which means it's only an option, if I've been hearing correctly; so if it's only an option, then we need to add the \$1,500 back or we need to add the new heating system into the expenses. It seems that needs to be resolved. I already touched on the cars.

C Hudson: I think we'll need to talk to former Mayor Jack Bushey, because I heard he put in a new heating system when he was mayor and the only concern I have heard about the heat in the police station, was Sgt. Hudson lost his heater. So, I think this is something we need to investigate. Perhaps a wall was put up to block the heating vent that goes into his office, or while we consider whether or not we should get a new heating system, we look into specifically what problems there are in that heating system.

D. J. Hughes: I'm just pointing out that it says it has been removed, because of the new heating system; but then it doesn't look like the new heating system was actually added.

C Abraham: It's in white and its \$14,000.

C Hudson: I still think we need to look into that, even though it's in white.

Mayor Post: We have extensive problems with the heating and the disproportionate heating at the Police Department because when we moved out of the Town Hall, it used to be one open building with a couple of little offices, and now it's chopped up into numerous offices so the heat is not being distributed; plus it operates on two systems and one is antiquated and one is okay and that is the one that was put in during the Bushey administration and that will remain. There are two heating systems in the Police Department. It's the one heating system that there are problems with.

D. J. Hughes: Police Revenues are also expected to drop; the Miscellaneous Revenues are expected to drop by \$55,000; I was just curious as to why, really.

Mayor Post: Police Revenues and Miscellaneous Revenues?

D. J. Hughes: Obviously, that's a broad category and I was just curious as to why it's projected to drop \$55,000, it might be something I don't know.

C Abraham: It wasn't, that was the 2008 projection of \$56,000; this year's budget was only \$500; year-to-date we're a little over budget by \$600 or \$700.

Mayor Post: \$50,000 was the renovation of the Police Department was taking place during 2008.

D. J. Hughes: I think I misspoke; it dropped from \$57,000, to \$1,433 this year; it just seems like a huge drop-off; I didn't know if that's...

Mayor Post: \$50,000 was allocated...

C Abraham: Revenue, income, income, income, revenue... It's not something they lost.

Vice Mayor Betts: It was income.

C Duby: It was the renovation money.

D. J. Hughes: It appears it went somewhere.

Jennifer Cornell: I believe a chunk of that was from insurance proceeds. But fiscal year, again, I can get the exact for that.

D. J. Hughes: Again, it was something I was curious about, because \$55,000 is a lot of money, so it just seemed like one year we have \$56,000 and the next year we have \$1,400; it seems a little odd.

Mayor Post: She'll look it up. Stephanie thinks it could also be an insurance refund from a car that was...

D. J. Hughes: It's okay; I'm not expecting answers to everything right this second. It looks like there was \$12,000 budgeted for utilities in Wagamon's, but the year-to-date this year is only \$7,000. Is that expected to increase next year or just again, curious?

C Abraham: We budgeted \$11,200, but we've only paid out \$7,000.

D. J. Hughes: It looks like you're on pace to be under budget, but yet you're increasing what is being budgeted.

Vice Mayor Betts: The reason for that is because each time there is another house built out there and there are more lights being put in; so that increases the electric bill.

D. J. Hughes: And we haven't accepted those streets for town maintenance; but we're still paying their utilities.

Mayor Post: Because there was an agreement under the Bushey administration that was approved by the previous Town Manager.

D. J. Hughes: Were you part of that administration?

Mayor Post: I was, but I did not approve of that Town Manager. He did that on his own and did an agreement and we broke it out because there have been a lot of questions on this electric bill of Wagamon's; but they are certainly entitled to electricity.

D. J. Hughes: Right, by I also live in a development without streets that have been accepted and you don't pay for our electricity; or if you do it's not in the budget.

Mayor Post: The prior Town Manager signed that agreement.

Vice Mayor Betts: We do pay some of the street lights out in Shipbuilders.

D. J. Hughes: I just didn't know why Wagamon's was called out; but Shipbuilders wasn't.

Mayor Post: We pay 80% we pay for Shipbuilders.

D. J. Hughes: Just to be clear, if you are going to break out Wagamon's, maybe you should break out Shipbuilders, just so it's obvious.

Mayor Post: No, the only reason we broke out Wagamon's is because we did not receive any street aid on that part and that's why we broke it out separately. It was chosen to keep it separate.

D. J. Hughes: So you receive street aid on Shipbuilders?

Mayor Post: We did; 80-90%. Not anymore. We will not get any street aid this year.

Vice Mayor Betts: We will have to pay it all this year for everyone.

D. J. Hughes: Just so you know, Shipbuilders residents are expecting a letter telling us why construction didn't start in June, as it was supposed to.

Mayor Post: That's another note, because guess what, the prior attorney did not get an easement out up here on the lake; and we're right now trying to get the easement; he didn't get the street easement.

D. J. Hughes: Robin let me know a little bit about it at the Board of Adjustment meeting last month. I was also curious; I like the Concerts in the Park and I think they're a good thing; just curious why it's \$1,500 more next year.

Mayor Post: Because we broke out the mailing that we do in the 19968 zip code.

D. J. Hughes: So we pay \$1,500 for a mailing?

Mayor Post: I don't think you understand how much a mailing cost.

D. J. Hughes: I'm just asking.

C Duby: It's printing and mailing and as I said, it goes to everyone in the 19968 zip code, so it's more than just the town.

D. J. Hughes: I think the Concerts in the Park are well known and maybe something to look out is publishing the schedule in the Gazette and most people around here read that. All right, just a question and suggestion.

Mayor Post and C Duby: We are.

D. J. Hughes: There's an option for sponsorship, not sure exactly what that means; but if we're in a deficit; I think that's probably something that we could do without. Also I was a little curious and maybe I just don't remember everything that was in the sewer contract; but I thought we were out of the sewer business; yet I'm seeing sewer permits and sewer impact fees and that sort of thing, as I believe revenue.

Mayor Post: Yes, we still collect a sewer impact fees; we get a portion of the impact fees.

D. J. Hughes: We get a portion of the fees.

C Hudson: We get \$1,500 for a new hook-up fee.

Mayor Post: Per hook-up.

D. J. Hughes: So that's basically anticipating new hook-ups.

Mayor Post: Yes, we've cut it way back; at one time we had transfer tax of \$1 million; we cut it down to \$150,000.

D. J. Hughes: That doesn't assume like Dr. Royt's property is going to be developed or anything like that, right?

Mayor Post: But there is discussion about Dr. Royt; I know that's come up a couple of times; but I know the developer has been talking to some people about it.

D. J. Hughes: I wouldn't expect anything soon on that.

Mayor Post: Then there's another one, very large development, that there's possibilities too of some interest.

D. J. Hughes: I believe this is under Park Expenses and this maybe for electric or whatever, the \$2,400 for utilities for the Parks.

Mayor Post: That is the electric in the gazebo and some other lighting that's supposed to be going out into the parks.

D. J. Hughes: That's just the direct expense for the actual electric bill.

Mayor Post: Yes, for the lighting itself.

D. J. Hughes: Also, I was curious last year, and this may have been grant money that you received to do the improvements for the park; but there's \$108,000 in Miscellaneous Revenue under the Parks last year and nothing for this coming year.

Mayor Post: I think even in the closing of this audit, you'll see more, because we got \$150,000, I believe it was, with a grant.

D. J. Hughes: Under 2008-2009?

Mayor Post: The one we're in right now.

D. J. Hughes: Okay, so the \$108,000, would actually go up to \$150,000?

Mayor Post: I'm positive that's what it is and I think there might even be another \$10,000 that we received for plantings, in a grant. Deanna, do you remember that?

C Duby: I don't, I haven't seen the numbers on this in terms of where we are, but, that figure will go up with the actual budget numbers.

D. J. Hughes: Also, it looks like we're assuming to get more money from Water Impact Fees next year, because the year-to-date right now is about \$46,000 or something like that and then it's going up to around \$60,000 or something like that; we're either assuming we're going to get as many or more next year, you think?

Mayor Post: It's all based on the amount of building and Cannery Village right now is really going well.

D. J. Hughes: That was pretty much all I have; one thing comment I like was the comment that Marion Jones said about recouping the money from these people; obviously you would expect people to own up to their words; but it's done all the time where if something is supposed to be done; you can have them do a cost estimate for the demolition; I assume they got an estimate from whoever demolished it; and you can require a bond, usually at 150% of the estimate and then you're protected and they don't get that bond back and then you don't have to hire a lawyer to put a lien on them and all that.

Mayor Post: I know, we're familiar, even with Shipbuilders; there was never a bond placed on it and now we're paying the price on that; but luckily with Wagamon's that's what we're dealing with right now and that's why we're trying to get the work completed out on Wagamon's before the bond runs out.
D. J. Hughes: I believe that was all I had. Thank you.

- k. Judy Shandler, Cannery Village at 202 Gristmill Drive: I just have a couple of conceptual comments that you've heard tonight; so I'm just echoing some of the things they've said and I would like the Council to consider, that's all. It's a tough year and hopefully this is going to be the last year that people are boot-strapping. I have to agree and this isn't getting down on Town Employees, because Town Employees do a lot and serve us well and we all have great appreciation for that. Having said that, you really want to make sure that there is no appearance of entitlement or things of that nature, so I guess I would echo and be kind of emphatic about saying the days of 100% healthcare really have come and gone; I don't think that's something that should be considered at this point. I know last year you went to having the families be a co-pay; but I really believe even 100% for just the employee is a perk that needs to be looked at closely. I would also agree that salary increases need to be modified and tempered; I know nothing has been elaborate and nothing has been a lot of wealth attached to you; however, the coffers are getting dry; so it's just a point that I would think of; instituting flex time; things of that nature. I do have a question, under Tax Assessment, it seems like it's a line item for \$20,000. I know we did the Tax Reassessment for \$83,000 and that was paid for from funds that had been encumbered from the year before; but what does that mean?

Mayor Post: Is that what we have to pay for the tax assessments for every time a property is sold or built?

Judy Shandler: Oh, I get it.

Mayor Post: It is a standard cost that we have to pay.

Judy Shandler: It didn't seem like an exorbitant fee but I was just curious if that was tied to the reassessment. I would just also echo, I'll just close with this and it's probably an unpopular statement, going back to the Town Manager's \$6,000 expense account and I know it perhaps is defended, justifiably; but again at a time when we're looking at funds and we're trying to avoid misconceptions and we're trying to avoid perceptions of entitlement; I would say, if in fact those funds are appropriated in ways that are beneficial to the Town, I wonder if there couldn't be some more transparency, as to where the funds go; because from what we've heard tonight there seems to be a great understanding and perhaps it is a misunderstanding that Irish Eyes has been the beneficiary of this \$6,000. Let's find out if that is true and if that is false? That's all. Thank you.

- l. John Collier, 301 Coulter Street: Good evening. I have a couple of comments. First I would like to echo all the sentiments that you've heard tonight

concerning the budget. I think there have been some very good points brought to light and it makes me feel very good to know that the people in this Town are watching you. It's a good thing and I've very appreciative of it. On another note, I heard comments earlier on and it really struck a note when you talked about legal fees and I know this doesn't have to do with this year's budget, but I just want to make the comment that in the document that I printed off the Internet today, it shows that three departments have budget line items for legal expenses: that's the Police, Administration and Code. That totals \$68,000. Under the year-to-date expenditures if you go to that line, it appears that we have expended approximately \$86,700; and I was wondering what line item the balance of that was hidden in or if that was coming from Revenue Reserves?

Mayor Post: It's not hidden in because the thing is with the legal fee, especially some of the Administration; the Planning and Zoning...

John Collier: The budget does not reflect it.

Mayor Post: It shows it in Revenue. It does. It's under Revenue. Those consulting fees come back; those legal fees come back because we charge the Applicant for them.

C Hudson: Rhonda said \$8,000 legal fees are coming back, so that would account for part of it, not all of it.

Mayor Post: That was only on one item.

C Abraham: No, that was only one item I just rattled off.

John Collier: I stand corrected on that and thank you for that. One more comment I would like to make and I brought this up in a previous years' budget under the idea of fees and I will think that you need to address the demolition fee; because simply it's a \$50 flat charge; so once you go to a property and you demolish the building on it, the owner of that property has every right to ask for a reassessment, so immediately you have lost that tax revenue; don't you think that fee should be more proportional to the idea of what should be lost? Well, you agreed last year and you didn't do anything about it; so maybe this year it will happen.

- m. Nancy Davis, Mermaid Lane: D. J. brought it up; at Shipbuilders; I have asked for lights on the Boulevard going in for the last six years; we don't have the lights; the streets have not been dedicated; thank heavens you're doing the snow plowing, when it does snow though; I have a number of questions and bear with me, because I have not attended budget Workshops before. I'm questioning what the Temporary Labor is for the Administration. Can you tell me what Temporary Help we need?

Mayor Post: Temporary Help is the people that do, I know for one thing, are the minutes, all the town minutes. I know under temporary and if I'm correct, one thing that falls under that is all the minutes, from all the meetings are taken from a recorder and transcribed so we have a transcriber for those minutes.

Nancy Davis: So you have verbatim minutes of all the meetings?

Mayor Post: Yes.

Nancy Davis: Okay, thank you. With eight employees in Town Hall, there's nobody that can help with that?

Mayor Post: No.

Nancy Davis: The Police budget, I noticed that we buy uniforms for them.

Mayor Post: That's for the cleaning.

Nancy Davis: No, we buy uniforms, too.

Mayor Post: Yes. That is in there, that line item is a large cleaning bill.

Nancy Davis: We also clean and the cleaning bill is \$1,250 on the budget. We buy uniforms for the Code Enforcer and for Water Personnel; \$9,500 for Water Personnel?

Mayor Post: How much?

Nancy Davis: \$9,500; that's a whale of a lot of money for uniforms.

Stephanie Coulbourne: That's for the cleaning of the Maintenance uniforms; that was a contract that the prior Town Manager had signed to have their uniforms cleaned every week; we can not get out of that contract; we tried.

Nancy Davis: Until when?

Stephanie Coulbourne: I don't know the termination of that contract.

Nancy Davis: It might be something to look into. That's a big bill. And we also provide transportation to and from work for some of these folks; in 40 years of employment I have never been paid to go to and from work. It something we have to think about; it's hard times; we have people who are out of work; we have people who have taken a cut in salary; and we have people who are just getting by; so there are a lot of things to look at in this budget. The Holiday Expense of \$2,300 – I believe that I understood it is bonuses to people.

Mayor Post: It's \$100 per 23 employees.

Nancy Davis: I think it's wonderful to have bonuses, but it's a lean year; it may have to go by the wayside. There's gasoline for the Administration and for the Water; the gasoline adds up to \$36,000; we're doing a lot of driving around.

Mayor Post: No, we're not doing a lot of driving around. Jenn, would you like to explain that excessive amount.

Jennifer Cornell: Under Water, the gasoline could be anything from a vehicle to generators to any equipment that they need to run in that department. Same goes for Admin, that line item is for Admin vehicle and of course, the Police Department has their own line item for police vehicles.

Nancy Davis: And Code Enforcer has his line also.

Jennifer Cornell: Correct, correct.

C Hudson: We should be looking at possibly reducing the take-home vehicles.

C Duby: Can I ask you to go back just a minute? Where in the budget are you finding that we are paying for transportation for people to go back and forth to work? Are you talking about the take-home vehicles?

Nancy Davis: Yes.

C Duby: It sounded like you were talking about something different.

Nancy Davis: No, I'm sorry. My question goes on then. If we're paying gasoline for Administration, then why are we also paying a mileage expense; when 5410 is a mileage expense of \$600?

Stephanie Coulbourne: The gasoline is for the Town Manager's car under Administration and to run any equipment if we need to; and the mileage expense is if any of us go to any Workshops or any meetings, which that has been severely cut and eliminated too, so we won't be going to a whole lot.

Nancy Davis: Okay, thank you. The question about the trash and the \$10,000 was making on that and I understand that. I completely disagree with the Town Manager's expense of \$6,000. If he didn't have it last year, this is a very poor year to all of a sudden decide he needs the \$6,000.

Mayor Post: He's had it since his contract. It's within the contract, so he's had it since his contract.

Nancy Davis: He's had it, but he hasn't used it, do I understand that?

Mayor Post: No, he has used, but we've done it onto a separate line item this year.

Nancy Davis: It's been hidden before. Okay.

C Hudson: We need to make sure that the Personnel Committee does a quarterly evaluation so we make sure that they follow that.

Mayor Post: And they've already developed the form for that and it will be a quarterly review.

Nancy Davis: Different comments on the Parks expense; having been a former member of the Garden Club; you should know that in the Milton Park, the train station garden is taken care of by the Garden Club; what they call the Anchor Garden is taken care of by the Garden Club; so they're doing a lot of work in there that is not included in the budget. I have a difference of opinion of how they plant, because they plant and pull before the plants are gone; but that is their philosophy. But not all the work in the park is being done by the Maintenance people.

Mayor Post: I would say 80% of it, though, to be fair; they cut the grass; it's cut regularly; they maintain all the sidewalks; and let's look at the perspective of also the footage of Governor's Walk that has to be maintained; it has to be sprayed with weed killer; there is trash to be picked up.

Nancy Davis: I understand that, but the Garden Club also takes care of all the plantings there by Governor's Walk.

Mayor Post: I absolutely agree that's why I strongly support the money going to the Garden Club.

Nancy Davis: I don't support that money.

Mayor Post: You know we have an option here of having something or having nothing at all and I think if you are saying that the Garden Club wants to take; because that's not what Catherine has always said; she says they need that money; and for all the plantings that they do; we can buy all the plantings and do the labor on it as well; which will be a lot more costly; or we provide some off-set costs to the Garden Club and they provide some indirect costs to us.

Nancy Davis: I understand that.

Mayor Post: I think that we get it; I just don't want to get into this prospective that we strip the town to nothing. So if you're talk about wanting people to buy here, which certainly pays the transfer tax; if you want people to not only that, but open businesses in the downtown, or shop in the downtown; you know when you're talking about \$500 here or \$2,500 here, on those type of things; any town I've gone to in today's time, even in this horrible economy; big or little; they certainly take pride in their town and they spend money on their town too.

Nancy Davis: I agree completely with you; but wouldn't the business owners take pride in the front of their businesses; wouldn't they provide part of that cost?

Mayor Post: We've seen that in the past. It has not worked.

Nancy Davis: And they haven't done it?

Mayor Post: No.

Nancy Davis: So they don't take pride in their town.

Mayor Post: And they don't make a lot of money in the town either.

Nancy Davis: Line 5430, Printing and Postage for Admin: Does that include the annual report?

Mayor Post: I would assume it does.

Nancy Davis: The annual report was beautiful; it was glossy; it was color. I would prefer to have that money used for other things. Any stock, any investment that I have I get plain black copy; I get a little dividend; I would rather have not as nice an annual report. I want all the information, but I don't need the glossy pictures, I don't need the color, I just need the bare facts and I would save that extra money. Also I don't think that we need to do any color printing or any color copying; that's extremely expensive.

C Hudson: I think it's a luxury in this time; especially when we're cutting things. It can be bare-boned, I believe, as you say. \$15,000 for the year end report in this day and age...

Mayor Post: \$15,000, you mean \$1,500.

Vice Mayor Betts: No, it's \$11,000 for the budget this year.

Mayor Post: That's all the mail for the year.

C Duby: All of the mail for the year is \$15,000.

C Hudson: It says year end report, doesn't it?

C Abraham: 5430 just says year end report.

Mayor Post: Jenn?

C Hudson: I agree with you that we can include just the information that's necessary; put it on the Internet; put copies out in the Library.

Mayor Post: We can Xerox it on paper, that's no problem. I've also heard from hundreds of people that have received that and greatly appreciate it, so we could cut it back, but I certainly support doing it because only 50 or 100 people come to the Council meetings and how many several thousand people that own properties here that also have second homes here; that are also interested. We need to decide what a priority is and what is not, then I guess we could cut it! Jenn, would you like to explain.

Jennifer Cornell: I just wanted to mention that line item is not just the year end report; the year end report is included; it was requested that we listed that we included it because there were some questions last year about that.

Nancy Davis: That's what I asked.

Mayor Post: What does that include, when you say it's included, because you did it in-house this last year? The prior year you did it by a printer. This last year you did it 100% in-house and even Xeroxed off the printer.

Jennifer Cornell: Correct; what other items; the property tax billing that goes out, so postage and printing for that; any other copies made in Town Hall; the reports that are available; every meeting, those copies are all available.

Mayor Post: Council reports.

Jennifer Cornell: Correct.

Mayor Post: So all these, everything.

Jennifer Cornell: Any mailings, bills that are being paid, all that postage comes out of that line item.

Mayor Post: Billings, all billings?

Jennifer Cornell: No, as far as the Town paying bills.

Mayor Post: The Town Administration bills. Okay. My understanding was that it was about \$1,500 for the year end report or not even that, maybe \$1,200 or something.

Jennifer Cornell: We estimated about \$1,500.

Nancy Davis: My turn again?

Mayor Post: Sure.

Nancy Davis: Okay. The leaf cleaner was talked about. I have a question; the leaves were picked up last fall; what happened to them? Is this town forward enough looking that you're shredding them; that you're offering them back to the people to use as mulch? They're great compost. If they were just thrown out and taken to a landfill we're completely out of date.

Mayor Post: Does anybody recall where they were taken?

C Hudson: We didn't make any money off of them.

Nancy Davis: No, we shouldn't make any money off of them. What I'm saying is, if we're going to collect the leaves, they should be shredded, made available to the people in the Town.

C Duby: She's asking for "green". We don't have the equipment to do that.

C Martin-Brown: If I remember correctly; because I was concerned that we have this mulch going somewhere; and if I remember correctly we were told it was taken to a State mulch leaf gathering place where it was all mulched and reused in the State parks and the State land, because we didn't have our own equipment; and so we were lucky to use another town's equipment for free and the deal was that the leaves went to a State aggregating place for mulching.

Nancy Davis: Thank you.

Mayor Post: This last year, the machine broke down and those guys did it all manually picking it up.

C Martin-Brown: We didn't have any machine.

Mayor Post: No.

Nancy Davis: A couple of questions about revenue and my apologies to the gentleman who has the boat. I boated for more than 20 years and if I only had to pay the amount that Milton charges for slip rental, summer or off-season, I would be ecstatic; you should check with the other Marinas; the other places that have boat docks and make yourself, at least comparable with them. I know it isn't going to bring in beaucoup bucks, but it is a little bit of money. My other comment is about the licenses for rental property; \$75 for a license for rental property to me seems to be minimal; you know that the property owner is going to pass it on to the person who is renting; you could do it at least at \$120; that's only \$10 per month; it's a suggestion for some revenue. On the budget options that the Council is going to look at, the Holiday Party, I have never worked in 40 years, where a party has been given to me by my employer. Either a group of employees gets together and they have a pot luck dinner or they go out together. The party is a luxury this year. Mileage for the Council: now you're going to all hate this one. You all live in Town, don't tell me...

Mayor Post: I don't have a penny of mileage.

Vice Mayor Betts: I don't either.

Nancy Davis: That's fine then.

Mayor Post: I've never used that.

C Duby: None of us use that.

Nancy Davis: I'm just saying, you live in town for heaven's sake, you have this wonderful title of Council person or Mayor, why on earth would you want to charge the taxpayer's money for mileage?

C Martin-Brown: Let me just assert something. It may be in the budget, but I personally, would never bill the town, nor for invitations to County meetings that include lunch, which are reimbursable; apart from the time of volunteering, and I have offered and I am giving away whatever salary I am paid as a member of this Council; so each of us individually I think, are very public spirited and although it's in the budget; I want to assert this is in no way meaning that we have to use the budget that way. I want to be quite aggressive about that; because public service is just that.

C Hudson: I agree that they should just delete that line item altogether.

Nancy Davis: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Betts: I agree.

Nancy Davis: The Police sign seems to be expensive; I have not priced signs so I don't know.

C Hudson: I agree.

Nancy Davis: I'm not sure that it has to be on neon lights or anything like that, that we could look into a smaller sign for the Police Department. The Bowflex is absolutely ridiculous; Marion's comment about overtime and flex time is an extremely good idea; if people are working at night, yes, they should be compensated, but not in money in time off; so come in at 12:00 noon when you have to work that night; or else be able to take the time off

later in the week or the following week. Not a last question, but a comment. I would like each one of you to look at the budget as if it was your personal money, not the millions that the Town is working with. Pretend that it is your money and you're going to be much more frugal.

C Martin-Brown: It is my money, I'm a taxpayer.

- n. Allison Hughes, 403 Mainsail: I just want to echo what some other people have said and I think it is very important that you hear this from a variety of people. I'm a State employee, I'm a teacher, and I don't ever get overtime for any of the time I put in. When you are a salaried employee, to a certain extent, you have duties above and beyond what your work hours are and so I think the overtime issue is a huge expense. Additionally, as a State employee, I took a pay cut, as did everybody else in the form of furlough days, but it's still money coming out of my check, along with the increase in my health insurance; so again, reiterating what lots of other people have said; I understand the 30% family share, the single share; that has got to change. I don't really care what other Towns do; everybody has to share in this burden and as a taxpayer, my pay is getting cut; my expenses are going up; but I'm supposed to supplement somebody else's insurance. It's been like that for a very long time and I think now is the time to make that change. It's just not realistic in today's world, in my opinion. Other than that, that's really all I had to say. I just think the more people who state what they think, the better our democracy is. So, thank you.

- o. John Collier: I know I've already talked, but I do have one question.

Mayor Post: Well, you can come back up.

John Collier: It's been a while since they talked about Postage. Does the Town use a postage permits? So when they send out a bulk mailing...

Mayor Post: Are you talking about metered mail?

John Collier: Yes.

C Duby: We definitely used permits when we did the concert flier; it wasn't even addressed to people; it was whatever that system is where it is just to each of the addresses in the County; there's no individual address; it just goes out, so it's the absolute cheapest rate; I don't know about anything else.

Mayor Post: Yeah, but Jenn, what is that now with Permit Mailing?

Jennifer Cornell: We do not have a Bulk Mailing Permit.

John Collier: I know that at the Fire Department, we send out ours, we send out to all 19968; a lot of 58; 63; 75 and a lot of other ones and there are thousands of them and it only costs us like \$200 for postage. It's almost 11 or 12 cents cheaper per envelope; and I think the permit is like \$125 per year.

Stephanie Coulbourne: We did have a permit for several years when I first got here; we eliminated that permit years ago, because what they were charging us to do for the year was increasing every year and the restrictions that they had on our bulk permit and what we could send out by using that permit; was eliminating what we could do as far as our billings and all that, so it was

cheaper this way. The Town made the decision several years ago that it was cheaper to go with the postage machine that we have and eliminate the permit.

John Collier: You might want to check on it now; things have changed.

Mayor Post: You might want to check on it now.

John Collier: Thank you.

Mayor Post: I want to thank everyone for coming; I want to thank you for your comments. We will be holding our Budget Workshop the week after next; hopefully it will either be the Wednesday or Thursday evening of that week. We still have not gotten a location and we have our work cut out for us.

C Duby: Mr. Mayor, I would just like to echo your thanks. One thing I think is important, that I certainly noticed we had enormous numbers tonight, compared to what we had last year; of people commenting on the budget; we had very few people commenting last year. I appreciated the comments and very much appreciated, obviously, the thoroughness with which you've gone over the budget and really spent some time with it; and it's certainly helpful to us and I want to thank you and let you know that you were listened to and we have a lot of things to mull over at the next Workshop. I appreciate all of the comments. Thank you.

Mayor Post: I will close the Budget Meeting at 8:56 p.m. Thank you.